



Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program Monthly Update **August 2006**

The Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program (HCDOP) is a partnership of [38 organizations](#) that conducts monitoring and analysis and develops potential corrective actions to address the low dissolved oxygen problem in Hood Canal. Following is a summary of HCDOP activities for August 2006.

Scientific Studies

- *Project update*
 - A Biota Workshop was held August 11. The goals of the workshop were to connect everyone working on biota projects in Hood Canal and to identify the key folks working on food web studies. Dr. Tim Essington (UW-SAFS) will be using the information for an energetics model of Hood Canal.
 - Duane Fagergren, Bob Hager, Dan Hannafious and Jan Newton met in Belfair to discuss program coordination for the HCDOP on September 1. They discussed timelines and milestones as well as how to be sure both education and science efforts are well-integrated into an overall plan.
 - Molluscan Study – HCSEG is still in the process of modifying the scope of work for the project as recommended by the scientist panel. There has been no data collected on the project to date.
 - Deepwater Geoduck and Cucumber Surveys – The scope of the project and budget are in the initial stages of development and a contract has not been signed yet.
- *New information generated by projects*
 - In late August, HCDOP received various reports about discolored (milky bluish-green) waters that had been observed from about August 20 to early September in northern Hood Canal and Dabob Bay. While positive species identification is still needed, analysis to date indicates that this was a coccolithophore bloom. For additional information visit:
http://www.hoodcanal.washington.edu/observations/bloom_fishkill.jsp

Corrective Actions

- *Project update*
 - Kitsap County Health District is near completion of its final onsite sewage system repair in the southern-half of the Kitsap County portion of the Hood Canal Watershed. Twelve failures out of over 340 homes were identified during the Health District's Pollution Identification and Correction project. Eleven repairs have been completed. The final repair is expected to be completed by September 20, 2006.

- Skokomish Valley Anaerobic Digester – Mason Conservation District received two proposals to design and construct an anaerobic digester, one from Biogas Energy Systems, Inc., and the other from Environmental Energy & Engineering Company. Both proposals are viable yet differ considerably in initial costs, operating costs, and net profits. Mason Conservation District has requested additional information, has conducted a detailed comparison of the two proposals, and plans to announce its selection by mid September.
- Hoodsport-Skokomish Sewage Projects – Mason County has nearly completed work on the alternatives analysis for Hoodsport-Skokomish corridor and will pursue a combination of sewage systems (central, cluster, onsite) to serve the area rather than a single centralized system. In August, Mason County, Mason County PUD #1 and the Skokomish Tribe signed a memorandum of agreement to guide the parties through the process of planning and implementing sewage management projects in the corridor.
- PSAT, HCCC and IAC met to discuss the management on projects funded by the capital budget last session. Some of the projects are not as ready to proceed as initially anticipated.
- PSAT is working with interagency partners to develop materials to show progress on Hood Canal projects, including sewerage projects in Belfair and Hoodsport to Skokomish, in preparation for a GMAP session with Governor's staff on September 25

Outreach

- *Public education and outreach updates*
 - The Hood Canal Coordinating Council's Community Nearshore Restoration Program workshops were held on July 15 and August 5. One hundred participants attended. These workshops were successful in reaching many "out of town" property owners that were not previously aware of Hood Canal water quality problems.
 - Shore Stewards and Hood Canal Watershed Pledge hosted educational booths and displays at the *Taste of Hood Canal* on August 12 in Belfair and at *Harmony Hill Summerfest* on August 26. WSU hosted a water quality education booth at the Squaxin Island Tribe's Salmonfest on August 19.
 - Project managers from the education projects funded through PSAT for this biennium have met twice and are working on a developing a coordinated system of evaluation for the four programs. WA Sea Grant, Mason Conservation District, Jefferson Conservation District and WSU Jefferson County Extension are involved in this process.
 - Educators from WSU Extension, WA Sea Grant and Mason and Kitsap County health dept staff met with Terry Hull (PSAT) on August 31 to discuss Onsite Septic System education needs and messages.
 - Dan Hannafious spoke to the Hartstene Island Kiwanis at the Spencer Lake Resort on 30 August. Dan provided an overview of the HCDOP program as well as other HCSEG salmon-related activities.

- *Upcoming meeting notices/speaking engagements*
 - Kitsap County Health District is holding a project kick-off public meeting on Wednesday, September 13, 2006 at 7 pm at the Clear Creek Elementary School. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce the Health District's next Pollution Identification and Correction project for the northern half of the Kitsap County portion of Hood Canal Watershed.
 - Hood Canal Watershed Education Network's next meeting will be Sept. 14, 1-4 pm Kitsap SSWM, Bremerton

Legislative Briefings

- Jan Newton (UW-APL) coordinated a boat tour and briefing on August 21 about Hood Canal low DO at the request of Hood Canal Select Committee Chair, Rep. Bill Eickmeyer. The purpose of the briefing was to provide an overview of the issue and ongoing research efforts to other Washington State legislators. UW College of Fisheries Science Dean Nowell, Jan Newton, and Rep. Eickmeyer gave presentations. Newton and Nowell presented the Hood Canal Select Committee members with 'Certificates of Knowledge' for their efforts. The event was filmed by TVW and reported by the Kitsap Sun.

Communications

- *Communications activities*
 - The publication date for the next issue of Hood Canal NEWS is September 25.
- *Media coverage*

State Lawmakers See Science Firsthand on Hood Canal

Kitsap Sun

August 22, 2006

http://www.kitsapsun.com/bsun/local/article/0,2403,BSUN_19088_4935174,00.html

Hood Canal: Bad months ahead

Seattle Post-Intelligencer (Editorial Board)

August 11, 2006

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/opinion/280839_hooded.asp

Scientists concerned Hood Canal will see large-scale fish kill

(Same article in Seattle PI, see below)

The Olympian (AP)

August 7, 2006

<http://www.theolympian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060807/NEWS/608070357>

Plummeting oxygen levels threaten fish in Hood Canal

Seattle Post-Intelligencer (AP)

August 7, 2006

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/280295_hoodcanal07.html